

cityscene

What's happening in the City of Fairfax

NOVEMBER 2020



A PLACE TO EAT DELIVERS FOOD SECURITY

On a warm and humid Sunday afternoon, a dozen masked volunteers crowd around three rows of folding tables in the parking lot behind Daniels Run Peace Church. Quietly and methodically, they fill paper bags with boxes of macaroni and cheese, jars of peanut butter and jelly, cereal, cans of tuna, pasta and sauce, rice and beans, and fresh produce. A young volunteer then walks the filled bags into the church and places them in neat rows on the floor of a storage room.

As the volunteers sort and pack bags, two minivans full of groceries purchased by shoppers arrive. A fleet of volunteer drivers will roll through tomorrow in 15-minute increments to collect and deliver the groceries to families with children of all grades in the city school system. This is **A Place to Eat**, city residents stepping up to help kids and families who need it.

Led by Katy Malesky, a Mason alumna and parent of three city-school students, **A Place to Eat** supplements the Fairfax County Public Schools food assistance program. Her program provides food to nearly

200 families with students in city schools this fall — a number expected to grow as teachers and staff extend their outreach. “We are fortunate to have supportive school administrators and PTAs,” says Malesky. “The school social workers have been instrumental and have worked very hard to help identify students who need our assistance on an emergency or more frequent basis.”

Malesky has a genuine passion for volunteering and is devoted to assisting hungry families. Her children are always willing to help, too, she says, “I like to see they are connected to our community through volunteer work. They definitely go above and beyond.”

A Place to Eat was founded by Mount Vernon High School teacher Gordon Brown, who now serves as the program's chief operating officer. Educators and advocates recognized that the need for food assistance did not end when students completed elementary school; there were hungry kids in middle and high school, too. Managing a food assistance program requires time and

attention, Malesky says, which can be a limited resource in schools. “We wanted to assist schools by helping build a food program foundation. We are a boots-on-the-ground organization, doing everything from soliciting food donations to building the infrastructure, and partnering with the schools’

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CITY NEWS

Holiday information

Election Day, November 3

City government offices - open
General District Court - closed
DMV Select service - closed

Veterans Day, November 11

City government offices - closed
General District Court - closed
Fairfax Museum & Visitor Center - open
Historic Blenheim - open
CUE Bus - modified weekday service
Refuse and recycling are not collected;
Wednesday and Thursday routes
collected November 12

Please note: there may be a delay in yard debris collection citywide the week of November 9. Please leave items at the curb until they are collected.

THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

Wednesday, November 25

General District Court - closes at noon
DMV Select - service ends at noon

Thanksgiving, November 26

City government offices - closed
General District Court - closed
CUE Bus - no service
Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center - closed
Historic Blenheim - closed

Trash and recycling are not collected;
Thursday route is collected on Friday,
November 27

Day After Thanksgiving, November 27

City government offices - closed
General District Court - closed
CUE Bus - modified weekday schedule
Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center - open
Historic Blenheim - open

Friday, November 27: Thursday and
Friday routes collected

Please note: yard debris collection may be delayed November 26-27. Please leave items at the curb until they're collected. Information: 703-385-7837, refuserecycling@fairfaxva.gov

General Election, November 3

The General Election is November 3 for U.S. President, U.S. Senator, U.S. House of Representatives, and two constitutional questions. Sample ballots are available online and at the Office of the Registrar.

What you need to know:

- Polls open 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.; if you are in line at 7 p.m., you will be able to vote
- Wear face coverings and bring your ID.
- If you received an absentee ballot but wish to vote in-person, please bring your absentee ballot with you to the polls.
- Completed absentee ballots may be deposited in the drop box in City Hall until 7 p.m. November 3.
- Unofficial city results will be posted when available on the city website and Cityscreen-12.
- Results reported on election night will include

all in-person voting and all ballots received by mail or in-person by Election Day.

- Ballots mailed by November 3 and received before noon on November 6 also will be counted and included in the final results.

Information: fairfaxva.gov/vote, 703-385-7891

Home Heating Assistance Available

City residents who need help with heating bills this winter may apply for Fairfax County Family Services Fuel Assistance and Crisis Assistance programs. Information: 703-385-7894

Fuel Assistance helps with the costs of heating homes for eligible households with low income. Applications are accepted through November 8.

Crisis Assistance applies to heating emergencies and can be used to pay bills for utilities that are in danger of being disconnected; applications are accepted through mid-March 2021.

Composting Center Open for Resident Use

The Fairfax City Composting Center adjacent to City Hall remains open 24/7 for compost drop-off. Visit fairfaxva.gov/composting for composting news and information — including a list of items that may be composted at the center, and the how-to of composting. Information: composting@fairfaxva.gov, 703-385-7816

Don't Bag It! Rake Loose Leaves to Curb; Collection Continues Through December 31

The City of Fairfax will offer curbside leaf collection November 4 through December 31. Information: 703-385-LEAF. Residents who receive city refuse service are asked to rake loose leaves to the curb. Bagged leaves will not be collected during this time. Please rake all leaves to the curb no later than December 23.

The city is divided into six sections, and leaves are collected in rotation by neighborhood about once every two weeks (often more frequently). Heavy leaf fall or inclement weather may affect leaf collection schedules. The city is among the only local jurisdictions to provide this service at no additional charge to its residents.

Light yard debris (such as grass clippings and weeds) may be included in leaf piles — but not stones, branches, and other large items, which may cause injury to workers and damage equipment.

Sign up for electronic leaf collection updates on Fairfax City Alert: visit fairfaxva.gov/fairfaxcityalert

Visit City Gift Shops for Fairfax Specialty Items

Start holiday shopping with Fairfax-themed gifts available at city gift shops in the Fairfax Museum & Visitor Center and Historic Blenheim. Gift certificates are available. The Museum is open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily (excluding holidays); 703-385-8414.

Historic Blenheim is open from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday (except major holidays); 703-591-0560

Real Estate Tax Bills Mailed in November; Tax Relief Available

City of Fairfax real estate tax bills will be mailed in November and are due December 7.

Property owners who pay the real estate tax directly and have not received a tax bill should call 703-385-7900.

Residents who receive a real estate tax bill and whose mortgage company escrows the payment should immediately forward the bill to their mortgage company.

The city continues to offer real estate tax relief options to qualified senior citizens and homeowners with disabilities: basic tax relief, tax deferral, tax freeze, or combination tax freeze and deferral. Additionally, disabled veterans (or their surviving spouses) may be eligible for real estate tax exemptions on their principal residences. Applications are due April 15, 2021. Information: fairfaxva.gov/government/finance, 703-359-2486

Find Tax Information, and Pay, on Web

Find Fairfax City real estate and personal property tax information and e-payment options online (search "tax payment" on fairfaxva.gov) — or, from the city website home page, under How Do I... click on "Pay Taxes & Bills."

Find current tax bills and tax payment records, make a full or partial tax payment, review your account, and sign up for Fairfax City Alert to receive tax-related notices.

Payment may be made via e-check, credit card, or PayPal; a convenience fee may be charged by the provider. Information: 703-385-7900

Interest-Free Loans Available for Tax Payments

The Treasurer's Office, with John Marshall Bank, offers interest-free loans for payment of city personal property taxes and real estate taxes through the Taxpayer Assistance Program (TAP). Customers may borrow \$250 - \$15,000, which is repaid in monthly installments over six to 10 months. There is a 5 percent application fee, and applications must be made in-person with the Treasurer's Office. Information: Treasurer@fairfaxva.gov, 703-385-7900





GETTING TO KNOW COUNCILMEMBER JANICE MILLER

Why do you serve on City Council?

I serve to help our community grow and prosper. Whether I'm asked by a resident how to resolve a "dilemma" with city government or vote on a rezoning application, I work to be fair and reasonable with everyone. Fairfax City is a genuine "hometown," and serving this community and helping others is an honor and a privilege I treasure.

What one thing do you want to accomplish during this term? We are working to navigate our community through the pandemic. There is a new challenge weekly, and there are numerous ways our local government can help our residents

and businesses in the challenging days ahead, such as keeping services steady, looking for new programs to assist our neighbors, and being flexible in our business practices.

What do you love most about the city? I love the people who live and work here. We are all connected in one way or another – through our neighborhoods, our schools, our churches, and our civic groups. Even though we approach life differently, I believe we all want the same thing: happy, healthy, prosperous families who have opportunities to enjoy the best life has to offer.



What is one thing you want people to know about you? While I am outgoing and love to be with and talk to people, I am a very private person. We all have private lives, and it's important to keep any confidences others may share.

COUNCIL REPORTER

COUNCIL ACTIONS OF SEPTEMBER 8, 2020

CONSENT AGENDA

- Approved, unanimously: Consideration of a resolution of the Mayor and Council 2020-2022 Vision and Goals; Introduction of a supplemental appropriation resolution in the amount of \$3,184,440 authorizing the use of federal and state grant monies to fund necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency with respect to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- Approved, unanimously, the request for a special use permit to allow the keeping of chickens at 10002 Hunter Street, with conditions.
- Approved, 4-3, the initiation of "quick-take" condemnation proceedings for the acquisition of a public street dedication/right-of-way and various easements at 3735 Chain Bridge Road. *(In favor: Mayor Meyer, Councilmembers Miller, Ross, and Stehle. Opposed: Councilmembers Harmon, Lim, and Yi.)*

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

- Reappointed: James Schroeder to the Board of Architectural Review, Marie Cox to the Board of Architectural Review, Jagdish Pathela to the Board of Architectural Review, and Patricia Addison to the Commission for Women.
- Appointed: Cheryl Ann G Lee to the Community Appearance Committee; Geoffrey Rixon to Historic Fairfax City, Inc.; and Sandra Slappey to the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board.

PLEASE NOTE: summaries have been edited.
To read the full Council Reporter, visit fairfaxva.gov and click on "City Meetings."

COUNCIL ACTIONS OF SEPTEMBER 22, 2020

CONSENT AGENDA

- Approved, unanimously, adoption of the presented resolution consenting to the city manager's (in his capacity of city director of Emergency Management) second amended and restated Declaration of Local Emergency dated September 22, 2020.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- Approved, unanimously, an appropriation resolution in the amount of \$3,484,440 to fund necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency with respect to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) and funded with federal grant aid.

Agendas Available on the City Website

Visit the city's homepage and click on "City Meetings" to read minutes from City Council, School Board, and Planning Commission meetings, and to view proposed agendas for upcoming meetings.

cultural CORNER

IMPROV LIVE

7 p.m., Thursday, November 19
Sherwood Center (3740 Old Lee Highway)

NINTH ANNUAL JAZZ4JUSTICE

November 20

Presented by George Mason University in
partnership with Legal Services of Northern Virginia

Watch virtual event online:

<http://cfa.calendar.gmu.edu/jazz-4-justice-8482>

Donate: <https://www.lsnv.org/support-lsnv/jazz4justice/>



YouTube

Subscribe to see
what you're missing!

www.youtube.com/user/cityoffairfaxva



Are you a Mason alum
with a business in the city?
We want to hear from you.

Contact
economicdevelopment
@fairfaxva.gov

TAKE YOUR CUE, STUDENTS



Riding the CUE bus is currently free for everyone, but fares may be collected again this fall. The exception will be middle and high school students who live and attend school in Fairfax City and Fairfax County. They can ride CUE and Fairfax Connector buses for free with a student SmarTrip card. The card provides free rides to students from 5 a.m. to 10 p.m., seven days a week. So, even though students will be attending class virtually, they can still ride the bus for free to get to work, the Metro, a park, or a friend's house. Students should contact their school for information. Homeschoolers may contact mphillips@fcps.edu or 703-446-2030. Please remember to wear a mask or face covering when riding the bus.

Reminder: George Mason University students, faculty, and staff also ride the CUE Bus for free. *Information and schedule: cuebus.org*



HELPING HANDS



JEFFREY HERMANN

CHAIR, ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

How many years have you lived in the city? 10 years

Why do you serve as an EDA volunteer? While my entire career has focused on the planning and development of great communities, I always have thought the business community was one of the most exciting and rapidly evolving pieces to that puzzle. I grew up in a family that deeply values public service and public education, so I have been fortunate to be able to marry those two passions via this EDA volunteer position.

Describe the relationship between EDA and EDO? The EDA is made up of citizen volunteers appointed by the City Council and Mayor to look out for the best interests of all existing city businesses, and act as an independent voice from the city government to bring in new businesses that are interested in locating within Fairfax City. We work closely with Director of Economic Development Chris Bruno and his staff in the Economic Development Office to ensure our shared vision for business growth and vitality becomes a reality.

Which economic project excites you the most? Most recently, I have loved seeing our city respond in support of the retail businesses despite the enormous hurdles thrown at us during a global pandemic. Whether it's the temporary road closures to support outdoor dining, or the herculean effort our EDO staff has put in to make sure the Fairfax City ReConnected Grants have been dispersed to businesses in need of financial support. Those represent some of the best responses a community can do to support each other under unprecedented, difficult circumstances.

Why is economic development important to the city? While this question usually leads one to think in terms of financial stability and success, and this is certainly important for the various infrastructure and programmatic needs of the city, I feel economic development is important to the city because it is a catalyst for equitable and inclusive job opportunities that will solidify our city as a place people want to be for the long-term. No matter the industry, job creation and place desirability remain two of the most important investments we can make to support the needs for all people to be successful.

What opportunities for economic development do you see for the city? Fairfax City is

well-positioned to be a center for ideas and business innovation given our close proximity and relationship with George Mason University. The EDA partners with Mason and the city to lease and operate a business incubator called the Mason Enterprise Center. We are working on an update to this concept over the next couple years that will enhance the speed and ease in which startups go from idea to successful business with world-class support services.

Do you volunteer with any other organizations? I volunteer seasonally with some of the FACETS Hypothermia Prevention and Response Program shelters around Fairfax.

What makes Fairfax City a special place to live? Simply, the people!



THE CITY NEEDS PEOPLE LIKE YOU

Board of Building Code of Appeals (one mechanical or plumbing vacancy); **Board of Zoning Appeals** (one vacancy); **Commission on the Arts** (one vacancy); **Community Appearance Committee** (two vacancies); **Economic Development Authority** (one vacancy; for information, email EconomicDevelopment@fairfaxva.gov); **Environmental Sustainability Committee** (three vacancies); **Human Services Committee** (one vacancy for an at-large member); **Personnel Advisory Board** (one vacancy); **Historic Fairfax City, Inc.** (one vacancy); **Planning Commission** (one vacancy).

To apply, visit fairfaxva.gov and search "boards and vacancies," or call 703-385-7935.

WOMEN OF INFLUENCE AWARD WINNERS, 2020



ABOVE: Susan Barborek
RIGHT: Janet Jaworski

In 2020, the Commission for Women inaugurated the **Women of Influence Award: Celebrating Women Making a Difference in the City**. With this award, the commission sought to recognize and celebrate outstanding women who live in the city and have made a significant impact on the lives of Fairfax City residents.

The criteria were few: nominees must live in Fairfax City, and their work must benefit city residents. Two recipients were chosen, the award ceremony was planned for March 24 — then COVID-19 reached Fairfax City. After months of waiting to host a “normal” event, the Commission for Women gathered on the City Hall portico for a masked, socially distant ceremony in which Mayor David Meyer honored Susan Barborek and Janet Jaworski.

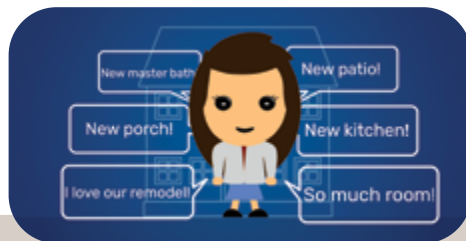
Susan Barborek, or “Coach B,” is a 20-plus-year city resident who owns SOAR Management Consulting, LLC, and serves as the Fairfax High School girls’ varsity gymnastics coach. Both in her professional and volunteer paths, she is known for her support and influence. Current and former team members praise her for making them want to be “a better person inside and outside the gym.” Professionally, her peers praise her entrepre-

neurial spirit and leadership.

Janet Jaworski, who has lived in the city for two decades, has served on numerous city boards and commissions, including the Planning Commission (which she chaired) and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. The former attorney also volunteered on the city’s Childhood Hunger Task Force. The long-time mentor at Daniels Run Elementary School enthusiastically encourages others to become mentors. Community members praise her for being a sensitive advocate for autism, and appreciate her commitment to native plants and sustaining habitat for butterflies and bees; her photography of the habitat and its inhabitants is called “stunning.”

In 2021, the commission will solicit nominations for the award; look for information in future issues of the *Cityscene*.

The seven-member Commission for Women identifies and addresses the needs of women in the city, advises city officials on legislative and policy matters relating to women, and advocates for programs to appropriately address their needs. The commission also promotes programs to increase the awareness about the many issues affecting women’s lives and helps identify resources to meet their needs.



FAIRFAX RENAISSANCE HOUSING CORPORATION

Fairfax City residents looking to upgrade or modernize their older homes may be eligible for a two-year loan from \$10,000 to \$250,000. The City of Fairfax Renaissance Housing Corporation will pay the interest. Basic requirements:

- Your home is at least 10 years old ■ Your home is valued at less than \$750,000
- You plan to live in the house for at least 36 months after renovations
- You have owned the home for at least two years

To learn more, search “neighborhood renaissance” at fairfaxva.gov.



CURIOUS CITIZENS

How do I dispose of fats, oils, and grease? Cooking holiday meals, such as a Thanksgiving turkey, creates **Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG)**. No matter how much hot water you run down the drain, FOG will cool down and coagulate inside your pipes or in the city’s sewer system. All that gunk creates the perfect dam, which can lead to backups in your home. Avoid a messy and expensive headache by placing FOG in the trash. Simply let FOG cool before disposing of it. Adding a few paper towels will help absorb liquids. *Did you know you can recycle used cooking oil at the I-66 Transfer Station, 4618 West Ox Road?*



Why there is a county-owned island in the middle of Fairfax City? Now known as the Judicial Complex, this anomaly dates back to 1799, when Richard Ratcliffe sold four acres to Fairfax County for the new location of the Fairfax County Courthouse. Ratcliffe owned all the land surrounding the four-acre parcel. He built a tavern where the Bank of America now sits. In 1800, he sold an additional six acres to the county to accommodate a jail, stocks, stable, and other associated buildings. It was then that he began to lay out the Town of Providence around the courthouse. The Town of Providence was approved by the Virginia General Assembly in 1805. This name was officially changed in 1874 to the Town of Fairfax, and in 1961 became an independent city, leaving a now 47.8-acre parcel of Fairfax County in the center of the city.

A PLACE TO EAT

continued from page 1



staff and administration,” she explains.

Fairfax City Schools Superintendent Phyllis Pajardo says, “We have all heard the adage about taking a village to raise a child. **A Place to Eat** is taking that lesson to heart. We are grateful for their partnership.”

Before the pandemic disrupted operations, **A Place to Eat** stored and distributed food at city schools: elementary and middle school students received bags of food on Fridays to get them through the weekend, and Fairfax High School students were able to take what they needed from a pantry. Malesky says COVID-19 provided a unique opportunity for A Place to Stand to look at student needs as a household. **A Place to Eat** is a program within A Place to Stand, a nonprofit organization dedicated to creating healthier communities.

When schools closed in March, food and hygiene supplies were quickly moved from schools to Malesky’s garage, where her distribution operation was modified to continue providing support to families during the pandemic. “To eliminate the obstacles many of our families face, we decided to deliver food to their homes,” says Malesky. Then Daniels Run Peace Church offered to provide storage space. **A Place to Eat** operates free produce stands in the church’s parking lot on Sunday afternoons, so a strong working relationship was already in place. “We are extremely grateful for their generosity,” Malesky says of the church’s support for her program.

With students attending school virtually this fall, **A Place to Eat** continues to deliver food to families. “The frequency of our support has increased based on the needs identified by our school social workers,” says Malesky. “This is a large undertaking, but we are confident our community will continue to support one another during this challenging time.”

Malesky says every congressional district in the country faces food insecurity, and the City of Fairfax is no different. “Public schools may be the most reliable way to estimate the extent of hunger in a given

region,” she says.

Food is delivered bi-weekly, and four delivery days have made a huge impact in the community this year. The numbers speak for themselves: 131 drivers delivered 1,042 grocery bags, 1,258 weekend bags, 265 snack bags, and 265 gift cards to the homes of 425 students – 26,700 pounds of food valued at more than \$40,290.

“To make all this happen, we were generously supported by individuals, families, organizations, church groups, and businesses in our community,” says Malesky. “Thanks to our amazing A Place to Glean volunteers, we have added fresh produce bags,” she notes.

“We are thankful they are trying to fill a need within our community and we look forward to working with them through this unprecedented year and in the future as our students return to us in our buildings,” said Fairfax High School Principal Dr. Erin Lenart.

According to Malesky, families appreciate the assistance. “While most items are practical, we have been known to include a sleeve or box of cookies as a sweet treat,” she says with a smile.

Monetary and shelf-stable food donations are welcome. To donate, please visit aplacetostand.org.








PROTECT YOUR VALUABLES AT HOME AND AWAY

**LOCK**

**TAKE**

**HIDE**



NEW WAY TO REPORT AND RESOLVE PROBLEMS

Introducing Fairfax City Resolve, the city’s new online reporting service. Whether it is a blocked storm drain, graffiti on a wall, damaged playground equipment, illegal dumping, or anything else for which the City of Fairfax is responsible, use Fairfax City Resolve to get the problem fixed fast. This new service allows you to easily report problems in your community.

Access Fairfax City Resolve on the city homepage (click on the Report icon) and download the smartphone app for iPhone and Android.

Why Should I Use Fairfax City Resolve?

- Easily report problems when and where they occur.
- Receive email updates throughout process, from reporting to resolution.
- No account needed — just a valid email address.
- All complaint and service request categories are listed in one place, so you don’t need to hunt around the website to find a contact.
- The app allows you to attach a photo or video of the problem.

Download the app today and report problems when and where you see them. Thank you for helping keep the City of Fairfax a safe, clean, and welcoming place to live.



Fairfax City is proud to once again support the Shop Small® movement with the second annual Small Business Saturday Elf Hunt – but with a 2020 twist!

Instead of hiding the elf in stores, participating businesses will have an elf and a QR code displayed in their window that can be scanned to verify the elf was found. When the QR code is scanned, not only will it verify the elf was found, but will provide links to participating businesses' websites, along with a list of ways to support them online, and information on specials.

Residents and visitors may search for elves from Saturday, November 28 through Sunday, December 13. Participants who find 10 or more elves will be entered in a drawing for the opportunity to win one of five \$100 gift cards to their Fairfax City business of choice.

Traditional printed Elf Hunt cards will be available for those visiting businesses in-person, and many of the participating shops will offer in-store specials that day. The cards will list each participating business, and when you visit in-store, the business will stamp the cards confirming your "find." Elf Hunt cards will be available at the Small Business Saturday Welcome Station from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, November 28 at Old Town Square, 10415 North Street. At the welcome station, shoppers may pick up morning treats,



hot cocoa, and coffee; and receive a free Small Business Saturday canvas tote, stickers, and a pen.

"Supporting small businesses is about supporting our communities," says Danette Nguyen, assistant director of Economic Development. "We encourage everyone to get out to shop and dine at city businesses. Your support helps ensure the survival of our city's small business community and directly impacts city neighborhoods."

To ensure the health and safety of the public, the Fairfax City Economic Development Office will implement comprehensive COVID-19 protocols at the event to mitigate the spread of the virus.

To learn more about Fairfax City's Small Business Saturday Elf Hunt, visit fairfaxcityconnected.com/elfhunt2020.



5 MINUTES WITH ...

PAUL NABTI

PLANNING DIVISION CHIEF
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING



How long have you worked for the city?
I've worked for the city since April 2014.

What is the "big picture" of your role? What are some examples of what this entails? I am involved in long-range planning for the city. This includes plans and studies that help guide future growth and development in the city. A prime example is the city's *Comprehensive Plan*, which the state mandates we review and update at least every five years. We just went through a major rewrite of the *Comprehensive Plan*, which was adopted in February 2019. We are now working on small area plans, which are essentially components of the *Comprehensive Plan*

that focus on specific areas. The *Comprehensive Plan* identified five activity centers for small area plans, and we just went through the process for the first two: Old Town and Northfax.

What should residents know about your department? If anyone is interested in having an impact on the future of the city, I encourage them to participate in the development of the *Comprehensive Plan*, small area plans, or other studies. These plans influence decision-making on topics like transportation, development, and sustainability, for years to come. Announcements on these opportunities are always made in *Cityscene*, the city website, and city social media. You also can sign up for the small area plans email list at fairfaxva.gov/smallareaplans.

What are some upcoming projects you're most excited about? The process for the first two small area plans involved countless discussions with numerous stakeholders and community members. I really look forward to having these discussions and reaching a consensus on how we want the future to look for the remaining three areas: Kamp Washington, Fairfax Circle, and Picket & Main. We also had numerous "next steps" come out of the first two plans, and I look forward to putting these into action. This includes establishing an arts walk in Old Town Fairfax and planning for a linear park in Northfax.

Why do you love your job? Being involved in planning, I help ensure that our built environment has a positive impact on Fairfax. I live and work in the city, so it is especially important to me to make sure we are creating a desirable place for future generations, including my kids. Mostly, I love talking to people about their thoughts on the future of the city. We hear so many stories and perspectives from people about living here, raising kids here, growing up here, and owning a business here. Everyone has different desires and priorities, so getting to a consensus on a vision forward is a real challenge, but a fun and exciting process.

Why do you love working for the city? There are a lot of ambitious and devoted employees here. Given our small size, employees here have the flexibility to excel in what they are good at. I believe this is why we have such good services, whether it be exceptional waste services, a wide range of parks events, or being awarded grants for trails and road improvements. It is really exciting to work with people on such ambitious endeavors.

What positions have you held within the city? I came to the city as a planner for the Community Development Division, reviewing land use applications and presenting them for City Council consideration. In 2018, I moved to the Planning Division, where I focus on longer term visioning.

Mayor David L. Meyer

City Council

Joseph D. Harmon

So P. Lim

Janice B. Miller

D. Thomas Ross

Jon R. Stehle Jr.

Sang H. Yi

City Manager Rob Stalzer



contact us

WeCare@fairfaxva.gov

- Large Print
- Recorded
- Braille

Cityscene is mailed to city residents and businesses by the first of the month and published on the city website. It is published by the Communications and Marketing Office to inform the public of government actions and events of interest in the city. Information is subject to change after publication.

Cityscene is available in large print, Braille, and audio upon request.

Para solicitar ayuda con servicios de la ciudad o preguntas sobre esta publicación, por favor llame al 703.385.7800.

본 간행물과 관련하여 문의 사항이 있으시면

☎ 703-385-7800 (무)로 전화 주시기 바랍니다.

Follow us:

@CityofFairfaxVA



MANAGING THE URBAN FOREST

Trees hold a special place in the hearts of city residents. A towering tree can anchor a neighborhood, admired by everyone in the community. Trees provide cooling shade during scorching Virginia summers, and they paint the landscape with warm colors during autumn months. Wooded stream valleys improve water quality and preserve a sense of wilderness in an urbanizing area. Trees clean the air and increase property values. They provide fruit and nuts to eat, habitat for wildlife, and sturdy limbs from which to hang a swing.

Trees contribute to the quality of life in the city.

The trees, shrubs, and other vegetation within parks, along streets, in private yards, on empty lots, and in urban natural areas make up the urban forest. In October, city residents were surveyed to help city staff gain a better understanding of community values about trees. The results will guide the development of recommendations in the city's *Urban Forestry Program Evaluation Report*, which will be completed early next year. The report will identify the city's goals and priorities for managing trees and forests; analyze the current status of the city's urban forest resources and management program; and identify methods, resources, and personnel needed to achieve the city's goals.

Sustainability Coordinator Stefanie Kupka is leading the team creating the report. "My vision is to have a strong urban forestry program and a team that strategically maintains and enhances our urban forest and adds to the well-being of the community for generations to come," says Kupka.

Fairfax has been recognized as a Tree City USA community for 33 consecutive years, which means the city meets the standards established by the Arbor Day Foundation and the National Association of State Foresters; however, trees in an urbanizing setting face many stressors. Each year, the city loses trees to damage from vehicles, disease,

storms, over-pruning by utilities, winter salt, invasive insects and plants, and other causes.

To help conserve the urban forest, the city requires residents to obtain a tree removal permit, which, in most cases, often requires replacing trees to maintain canopy coverage or comply with an approved plan. The city enforces its tree ordinance when approving construction projects proposed by land developers. Tree preservation is encouraged where possible, and, when it is not, native species are typically selected that will replace the tree canopy as they mature. The Parks and Recreation Department recently hired a certified arborist to manage trees on city parkland.

"Caring for Fairfax's urban forest is an important part of growing a sustainable, healthy, and vibrant city, and cannot be achieved without the input of residents," says Kupka. "Urban forests and community health are inextricably linked; the better an urban forest, the greater a community's health. A community that is engaged with its urban forest will responsibly plant, care for, and nurture its trees, while inspiring others to do the same and supporting the city's urban forest program. A thriving urban forest is only possible through a civic commitment and partnerships shared by all."

To learn more, search "urban forest" at fairfaxva.gov.